

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Remarks

At the outset, the applicant points out that a sequence listing for the present application has been filed several times. Specifically, *sequence listings have been filed on May 31, 2002, August 21, 2002 and on November 11, 2002* (Copies of the postcards are attached to this paper). If the Office is unable to locate the previously submitted copies, the applicant would appreciate a phone call to state so.

Restriction / Election

The Office considered the pending claims as being directed to several patentably distinct inventions. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that claims 1-15 would be directed to a peptide (Invention I), claims 16-17 and 32-45 would be directed to a fusion peptide (Invention II), claims 18-27 would be directed to a nucleic acid and vector (Invention III), claims 18-20 and 27 would be directed to a method of detecting (Invention IV), claims 23-24 would be directed to a method of isolating a protein (Invention V), claim 28 would be directed to a use of streptavidin or mutein thereof (Invention VI), and claims 29-31 would be directed to a detection of a binding event (Invention VII).

Again, the applicant disagrees. However, and only to advance prosecution of the present matter, the applicant elects without traverse group II reading on claims 16-17 and 32-45. Claims 1-45 are pending in the application with claims 1-15 and 18-31 being withdrawn. The applicant respectfully requests consideration of the claims as presently presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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